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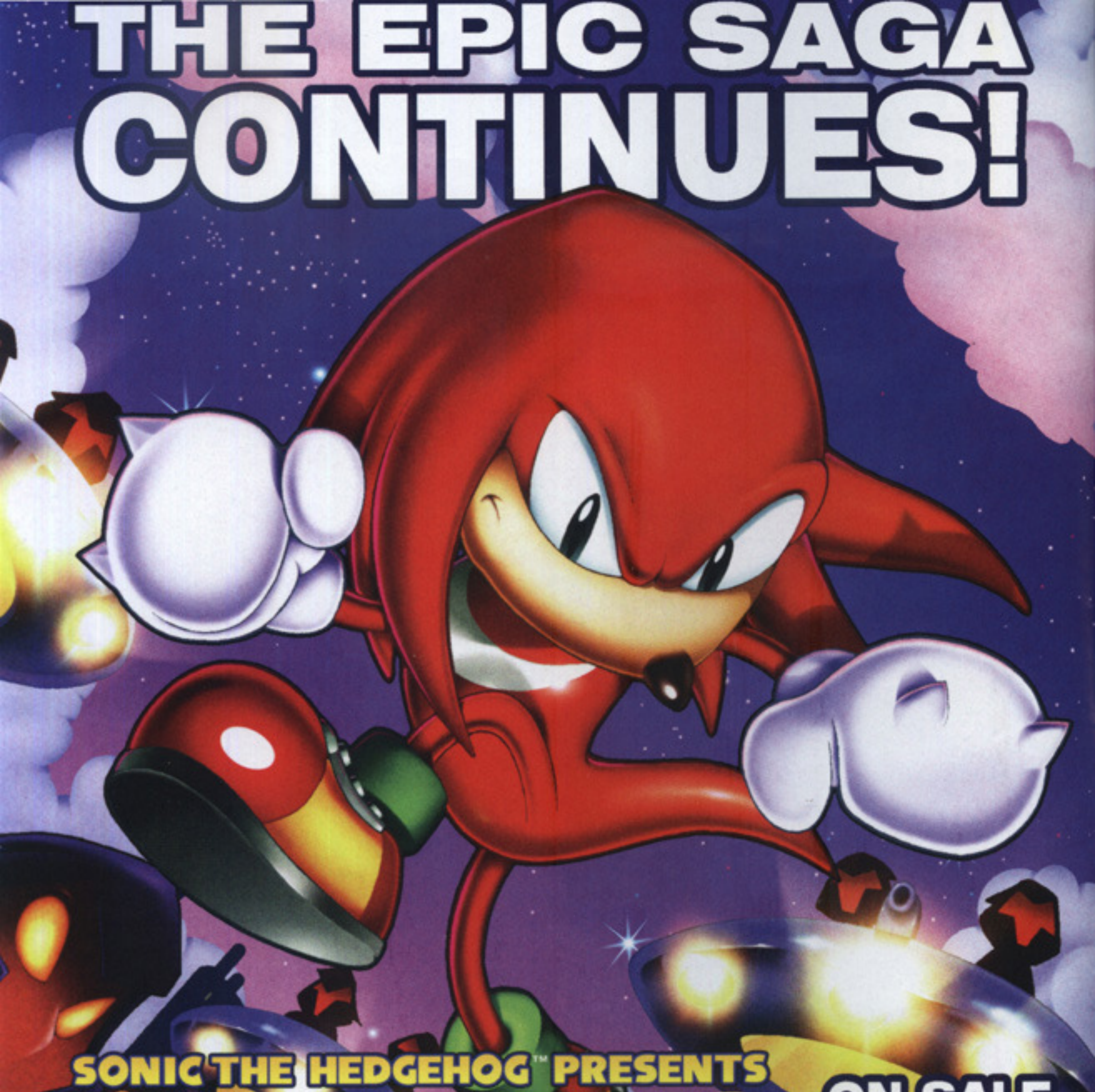

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ PRESENTS

KNUCKLES™

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THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHT... AND THEN I WAS SOME-WHERE...

... NEW...

...BUT FAMILIAR!

I MET ALL THESE NEW FRIENDS...

...BUT I ALREADY KNEW THEM! ✳

THERE WAS A HUGE FIGHT, AND THEN I...

...I NEEDED MORE TIME TO...

Hi
SAL

SALLY!
RIGHT! TEN-SECOND REWIND!
NO CHEAP SHOT FOR YOU!
SONIC! WE'RE OUT OF TIME! WE'VE GOT TOOO-OOP!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SAL!
TWO STEPS BACK...
Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: BEN BATES
Inks: TERRY AUSTIN • Colors: MATT HERMS
Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
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Special thanks to CINDY CHAU
ANTHONY GACCIONE, and
JUDY GILBERTSON at SEGA Licensing

SONIC! THERE'S A--!

LIKE I JUST SAID...

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

...WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SAL.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? TOO MUCH AWESOME CONDENSED INTO ONE MOMENT?

...NO, IT'S ...IT'S NOT THAT...

F22

F21

HI SAL

...IT'S NOTHING. LET'S KEEP MOVING.

MEANWHILE

WHY ISN'T IT WORKING?

SNIVELY! WHY ISN'T THE COSMIC RESET BUTTON RESETTING THE COSMOS?

I-I-I DON'T KNOW, SIR! I'M NOT READING ANY PROBLEMS! IT'S JUST...

...NOT WORKING?

RRRRARGH! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ROBOTIZE A COMPLETELY HELPLESS AND REBOOTED WORLD IF IT'S NOT HELPLESSLY REBOOTED?!

D-DON'T YOU MEAN "ROBOTICIZED," SIR?

SHUT IT!

TIME FOR A COMEBACK!
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I WAS SO CLOSE! AND THEN THAT *STUPID HEDGE-HOG...!*

...HEDGE-HOG...

OF COURSE. THE CHAOS IS THE CONSTANT.

I RE-MEMBER NOW.

STUPID GOLDEN RODENT.

THE DAY IS NOT LOST! SNIVELY! WHAT'S THE STATUS OF STAGE TWO?

PRIMED AND... AND READY TO FIRE, SIR. BUT SONIC AND THE PRINCESS ARE ON THEIR WAY DOWN TO THE...

NOT TO WORRY, SNIVELY. THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN STOP ME THIS TIME.

OKAY, IT LOOKS LIKE MOST OF THE DEATH EGG'S POWER IS BEING DIRECTED TO THAT DECK BELOW. ANY IDEA WHAT IT IS, NICOLE?

I'M AFRAID THE DOCTOR'S SYSTEM IS VERY SECURE. IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO JUST GET THAT MUCH INFORMATION. I WOULD NEED MORE TIME.

WHICH WE DON'T HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO DOWN AND SEE WHAT'S TAKING SO MUCH POWER.

HOLD IT! HIDDEN CANNON INSPECTION!

...HIDDEN CANNON...

YEAH. LIKE THE ONE IN THE HALL...WHY?

JUST PRE-MISSION JITTERS. I'M FINE.

IF YOU SAY SO...

BLAST TO THE PAST AT SONIC SPEED!

SONIC SELECT
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YOWZA!

THAT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT ROBOTI-CIZER!

PSHHHHT! HA HA HA HA!

A WORLD ROBOTI-CIZER, TO BE PRECISE.

AND HERE I THOUGHT WE HAD SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT! YOU REMEMBER THOSE ALIENS THAT SNAGGED US A WHILE BACK?* WHEN THEY DEROBOTI-CIZED EVERYONE, THEY MADE SURE IT WAS FOR KEEPS!

*STH # 118.

YES, YES.

THOSE BOTHERSOME BEM. THEY RE-WROTE THE RULES OF THE GAME. BUT I CHANGED THEM *BACK.*

SURELY YOU NOTICED THE FLASH OF LIGHT? THE MOMENTARY DISORIENTATION? THAT WAS JUST PHASE ONE!

YOU'RE BLUFFING.

EVERY-THING *DID* RESET... RIGHT...?

I HEARD THAT. REGARDLESS, DO YOU RECALL, DEAR PRINCESS, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO ROBOTICIZE SOMETHING THAT'S *ALREADY* MECHANICAL?

SIMULATION

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

WHEN I TRICKED HIM INTO ROBOTICIZING MY AUTO AUTOMATON DOUBLE.*

OH, NO...

*PRINCESS SALLY MINI-SERIES.

THAT'S RIGHT! IT EXPLODES! ALL OF G.U.N.'S FORCES! ALL OF THE UNITED FED-ERATION BLOWN BACK TO THE STONE AGE.

HA HAHA HA!

SIMULATION

AND LET'S NOT FORGET NEW MOBOTROPOLIS! THERE GOES YOUR PRECIOUS NANITE-MADE CITY! HAHA HA HA HA!

...DAD...

BUNNIE ...AND NICOLE ...!

OKAY, I TAKE BACK THE LAUGHING...

WAIT!

YOU'LL DESTROY EVERY CHAPTER OF YOUR DARK EGG LEGION!

WHAT'S YOUR POINT? I'LL HAVE MILLIONS OF ROBOT SLAVES TO REBUILD MY ROBOT ARMY. BESIDES...

... YOU CAN'T MAKE AN OMELET WITHOUT BREAKING A FEW DARK EGG LEGION-NAIRES.

I NEVER SHOULD'VE SHOWN YOU A SHRED OF MERCY, YOU SICK--!

AH-AH-AH! LANGUAGE, RODENT!

HRK! OKAY! I'M OFFICIALLY GETTING TIRED OF METAL SONICS!

I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS WITH--

--YOU.

THOOM

HAHAHA! HAVING TROUBLE, RODENT?

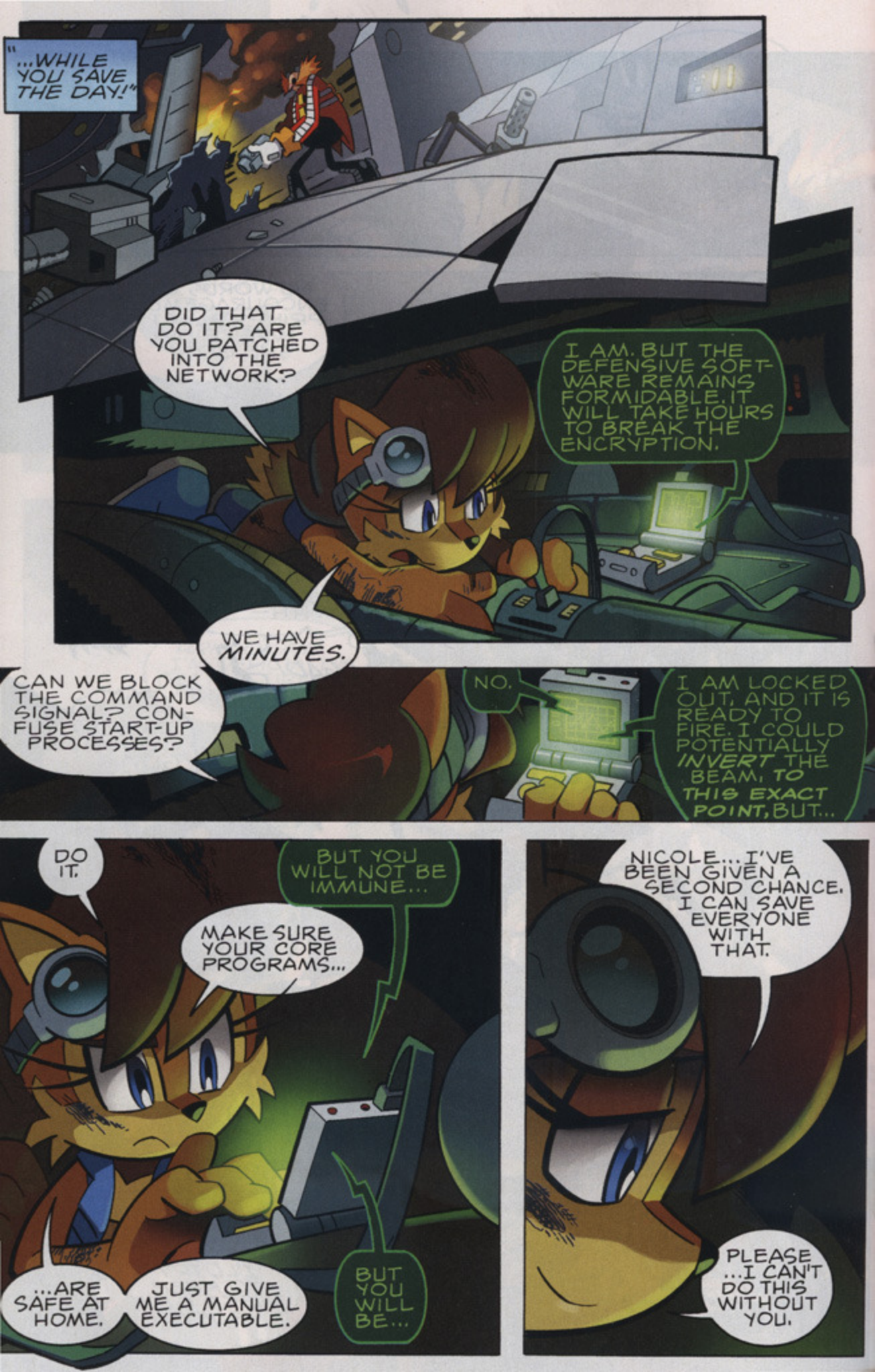
NO WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, PRIN--? BLAST IT! WHERE DID SHE GO?!

I'LL TOLERATE THE HEDGEHOG CAUSING PROBLEMS. THAT'S JUST A FACT OF LIFE, BUT *YOU* AREN'T ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH--

EGAD!

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A PLAN, SAL!

I'LL TRY TO KEEP THESE GUYS BUSY...


"...WHILE YOU SAVE THE DAY!"
DID THAT DO IT? ARE YOU PATCHED INTO THE NETWORK?
I AM. BUT THE DEFENSIVE SOFTWARE REMAINS FORMIDABLE. IT WILL TAKE HOURS TO BREAK THE ENCRYPTION.
WE HAVE MINUTES.
CAN WE BLOCK THE COMMAND SIGNAL? CONFUSE START-UP PROCESSES?
NO.
I AM LOCKED OUT, AND IT IS READY TO FIRE. I COULD POTENTIALLY INVERT THE BEAM, TO THIS EXACT POINT, BUT...
DO IT.
BUT YOU WILL NOT BE IMMUNE...
MAKE SURE YOUR CORE PROGRAMS...
...ARE SAFE AT HOME.
JUST GIVE ME A MANUAL EXECUTABLE.
BUT YOU WILL BE...
NICOLE... I'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE. I CAN SAVE EVERYONE WITH THAT.
PLEASE ...I CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.

IT'S TIME FOR ACTION!

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG 236 - 238

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SAL...! IF YOU'RE GONNA DO SOMETHING, DO IT NOW!

NO MORE SET-BACKS! SNIVELY! FIRE THE WORLD ROBOTI-CIZER!

•A.I. DOWNLOAD TO NEW MOBOTROPOLIS SERVER: COMPLETE
•BEAM INVERSE OVERRIDE: COMPLETE
•GOOD-BYE, MY FRIEND
•EXECUTE? Y■N■

GOOD-BYE...

VVVVMMMMMMMMM

YES!

VVVVMMMMMMMMM

NO! NO!!!

KA THOOM!

SWEET!

SONIC AND SALLY MUST'VE DONE SOME-THING!

÷KZZT÷ YOU READ ME, SIR?! ÷KZZT÷

THERE ÷KZZT!÷ MASSIVE ENERGY LEAKS IN ALL SYSTEMS! THE ROBOTICIZER ISN'T JUST OFF-LINE--IT'S GONE! ÷KZZT!÷

÷KZZT!÷ ALL OTHER SYSTEMS ARE STILL ON-LINE. NO LOSS IN ALTITUDE ÷KZZT÷ AND THE POWER RING MATRIX IS HOLDING. BARELY.

I GUESS THE OLD IMMUNITY WASN'T RESET AFTER ALL. OH, PLEASE... *PLEASE* TELL ME THAT FINISHED HIM OFF...

CLANG!

NO. OF COURSE NOT.

HEY. LOOK. WE WIN. AGAIN.

NOT... YET!

YOU'RE STILL ...YOU'RE STILL ON MY TURF, RODENT... AND... AND...

DUDE, COME ON. WE WIN. I'M GONNA FIND SALLY. THEN WE'RE DESTROYING YOUR DUMB EGG.

THEN I'M STOMP-ING ON NAUGUS. AND THEN THE TWO OF YOU CAN ROT IN A CELL.

AND THEN I'M GOING TO EAT A MILLION CHILI DOGS. AND THEN...

...OH, NO. OH, NO, NO, NO, NO!

AH...AH-HA! HA-HA-HA! HAHAHA!

HAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHA
BWA
HAHAHA
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SONIC: GENESIS

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SONIC #230 EXTENDED EDITION PRESENTS:

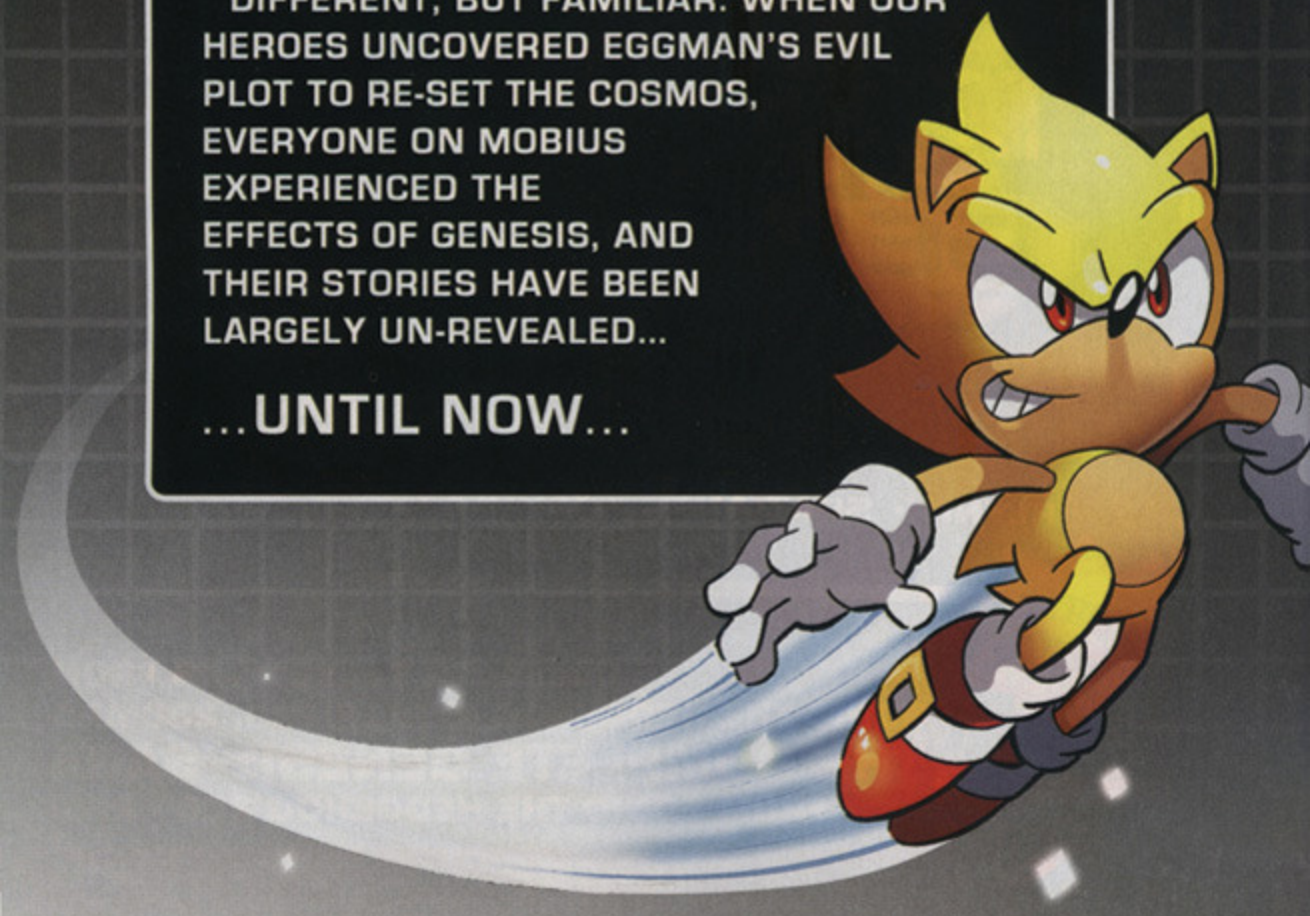
SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

SINCE DR. EGGMAN LAUNCHED HIS EVIL DEATH EGG MARK 2 BATTLE STATION, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE HAD IT PRETTY ROUGH!

THE EVIL (OMELET) DICTATOR'S FIRST ATTACK WAS THE "COSMIC RESET BUTTON," WHICH ALTERED REALITY ITSELF! THE WORLD TURNED TO WHITE, AND THE ENTIRE PLANET WAS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ALL-NEW WORLD.

DIFFERENT, BUT FAMILIAR. WHEN OUR HEROES UNCOVERED EGGMAN'S EVIL PLOT TO RE-SET THE COSMOS, EVERYONE ON MOBIUS EXPERIENCED THE EFFECTS OF GENESIS, AND THEIR STORIES HAVE BEEN LARGELY UN-REVEALED...

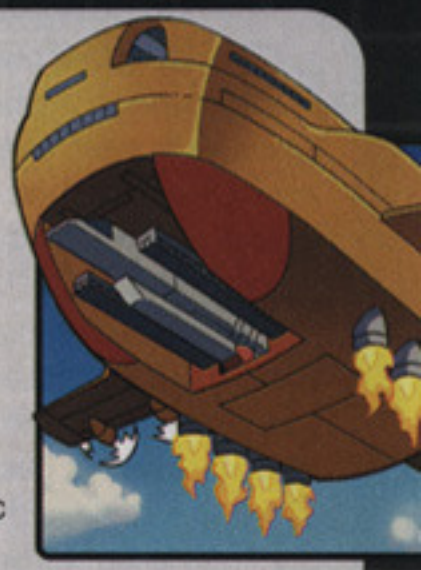
...UNTIL NOW...



THE FOLLOWING STORIES TAKE PLACE BETWEEN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #229 AND #230

SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

- MILES "TAILS" PROWER -



Tails called out one last time, but Sonic was gone. His hero was clinging to the side of some kind of rocket-jet that pulled away into the clouds and out of sight. Was he headed for that egg-shaped object hovering just within view?

Tails turned the Tornado around and headed back towards the Wing Fortress. If Sonic was brave enough to pull that stunt, then his best friend was going to ensure there wasn't anything sinister waiting for him on his return. Tails' heart raced as he closed in on the flying fortress – how did Sonic just run head-first into danger like this? As he closed the distance between his tiny biplane and the massive construct, he realized he had no weapons installed on the Tornado. What was he thinking?! Why wasn't Sonic here to help him?!

A searing laser bolt the size of the Tornado itself cut through the air, narrowly missing the plane. Tails gripped the control stick and tried to keep calm. He was panicking so bad he was losing focus. The world around him was going white...

*****

Tails blinked away the fogginess from his eyes. What just happened? And why was his heart going a million miles a minute? The Freedom Fighter Special roared past, and its engines brought back everything: Geoffrey, Naugus, and now the new Death Egg.

When they had first approached, the Death Egg had not hesitated in its defense. It seemed like every space between its armored plates housed a laser canon. Now it had stopped. Tails noted the Freedom Fighter Special was flying casually as well. It was if the whole world had stopped for a moment to think about something else.

The moment of reflection was brief. Just as Tails had finished his thought, the Freedom Fighter Special banked sharply in the air, and the Death Egg resumed its attacks. Tails pulled the Tornado into a barrel-roll, spiraling away from the enemy fire. He climbed sharply and circled around the top dome again, the defensive lasers missing him completely.

He made another fly-by of the one hole he'd made in Death Egg's armor.

"Wait," he thought, "I didn't install any weapons. How did I make that hole?"

Tails looked over the heads-up display before him. It seemed too advanced for some reason. But he did indeed have weapons ready to be deployed. His fuel was getting low, but surely Sonic and Sally would be back soon.

They'd gone in through the hole in the Death Egg. The one he made. With the missiles his plane had. Tails shook his head, clearing his thoughts. He needed to be here for his friends.

He banked sharply again and launched another missile, but unlike the one spot Sally had pin-pointed, the explosion had no effect. As Tails pulled away to line up another shot – it wasn't damaging the Death Egg, but it might be serving as a distraction – when he realized he was no longer under fire. The Death Egg had gone silent.

"Tornado to Special," Tails called into the radio. "It's gone quiet. Any word from Sonic or Sally?"

"Not a one, sugah," Bunnie replied through the crackle of static. "Ah wonder why they..."

Suddenly, an explosion rocked the inside of the Death Egg. Fire and smoke poured from its seams. Tails heard a cheer from over the radio.

"Sweet!" he cried. "Sonic and Sally must have done something!"

SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

- KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA -

Knuckles the Echidna took one last look at the Master Emerald. Hidden away in the heart of the Hidden Palace, the gemstone kept Angel Island aloft miles above the surface of Mobius. He knew it was his duty to watch over it, but he didn't know why. He would always stop here on his patrols and stare into its radiance, hoping that one day the answers would come to him.

But not today. Knuckles made his way through the blue-tiled halls until he came upon a teleportation pedestal. He jumped onto the glass orb and was surrounded by a column of light. There was a tugging sensation deep in his gut, a flash of light, and then he was suddenly hundreds of feet above the island in the Sky Sanctuary.

He leapt from the receiving pedestal, fanned out his dreadlocks, and began to glide to the island below. From here he'd get a good look of the island before ending his patrol for the day. But as he descended, something caught his attention from the corner of his eye. A faint egg-shape lingering high among the clouds. While it appeared as little more than a smudge in the sky, it filled him with a sense of dread.

Knuckles blinked as a white haze came over his vision. Maybe he'd stared at the sky too long? He veered towards the Red Mountains and landed among their crags. He shook his head, trying to clear the white-out that was taking over his vision...

*****

Knuckles snapped awake. He scanned the area, eyes wide, body tense. Hadn't he just been around the mountains? He felt the warmth of the Master Emerald against his back. The stairs of its shrine led down Shrine Isle.

"Knux?"

He looked to see Julie-Su coming around the far side of the Master Emerald, blinking as if she'd just woken from a dream.

"I'm here," he said. "You okay?"

"Yeah, I just have this strange feeling... like I was back in the Twilight Cage."

Knuckles nodded. "I feel that too. It's like when I returned from the Chaos Force."

Julie-Su winced tiredly and wagged a finger. "No, no, you promised you wouldn't bring that up again."

Knuckles smiled a little, then caught sight of Charmy flying towards him. The little bee's flight was erratic.

"Are you okay, Charmy?" he called.

"Yeah," the bee called back sleepily. "I just had the weirdest dream. I was a detective with Espio and Vector!"

"Uh-huh."

"We had an office and everything!"

Knuckles looked over to Julie-Su, who seemed to be studying her hands with concern. "You're sure you're okay?" he asked.

"Fine," she said absent-mindedly. "I had a... weird dream, too. Sorry, I just don't feel like myself."

Knuckles nodded. "It'll pass." He stood, stretched, and looked across the wooden bridge back to Angel Island. It was time he did another patrol as the Guardian, but he felt like he'd already done the rounds. Something had happened to them just now – but what?

SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

- AMY ROSE -

Amy breathed a slow, calming sigh. She had to clear her mind before using her cards. When she felt ready, she shuffled the deck, then picked and placed a card on the grass in front of her. One by one she selected and arranged the cards until the pattern was complete.

Amy studied each card closely, where it fell in the pattern, whether it was right-side-up or upside-down, and what each card meant in relation to each other. As she studied them a smile grew, and by the end she jumped up and cheered. According to the cards, she was fated to meet the famous hero Sonic the Hedgehog! They were fated to meet in a magical place she was familiar with, and she knew of nowhere more magical than Little Planet. They would meet soon, and she could hardly wait!

The bit that implied there would be "two Sonics" was a little weird, but who cared? They were just cards! She would meet Sonic for the first time! Amy twirled happily – then steadied herself. All this excitement was getting to her; her vision was beginning to white-out. She sat in the grass again as the white blurriness filled her vision...

*****

Amy blinked away the haze. For a moment she was very confused - where had this seat come from, and why was she strapped in? When had her cute little blouse and skirt been replaced with a dress and boots?

Slowly, things began to come back to her. The hum filling her ears was the sound of the Freedom Fighter Special's engines. Her Piko Piko Hammer was across her lap, ready to be swung at the nearest badnik – or traitor. Geoffrey St. John was seated across from her, his eyes glassy and his body lax. She was guarding him as much as she was joining the mission against the – what was it again? Oh right! The Death Egg. Had her momentary lapse of attention been a spell he cast on her?

She ruled that out for now; Geoffrey seemed to be coming around himself. In fact, the Freedom Fighter Special was flying very smoothly considering just moments ago they'd been weaving between beams of deadly laser-fire. Amy peered towards the cockpit and could see Bunnie and Antoine beginning to stir.

"Everything all right up there?" she called.

"Ah think so," Bunnie called back, then reached for Antoine and said something Amy couldn't make out over the drone of the engines.

Amy roughly prodded Geoffrey's boot with the handle of her hammer. "You better not be up to something."

Geoffrey gave her an impatient glare. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"Uh-huh. You Ixis wizards are all about tricky stuff."

"I'm an apprentice, luv. Ap-pren-tice. All I've got is my meager wind magic."

"Regardless, these are pretty tight quarters." Amy hefted her hammer with a warning glare. "I won't miss."

Geoffrey rolled his eyes but said nothing.

The Freedom Fighter Special lurched to the side, and a moment later Amy heard the hiss of laser-fire resume outside. She wrung the handle of her hammer in anticipation – and in worry. Sonic and Sally had infiltrated the Death Egg a little while ago and they hadn't checked back in. While she had the utmost confidence in her friends, she couldn't shake the feeling something terrible was about to happen.

SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

- BUNNIE D'COOLETTE -

Bunnie hugged her knees and rocked slowly on the hard, metal floor. All around her were Mobians. Most were huddled together in small groups, sleeping to escape their fear, while others had sat around her and stared hopefully. She was the only Mobian in the Prison Egg, and the little animals looked to her for guidance.

"Don't you worry none," she said softly. "Ah heard tell of a group of Mobians running around helping folks. Ah'm sure they'll come find us before that nasty ol' needle-nosed guy shows up again.

They were optimistic words, but she wasn't convinced of them herself. She felt a cold tingle of dread in her limbs and peered out the one small view port in the Prison Egg's wall. She hoped help would come for them soon, or at least would protect her cousin. Cream was too young to deal with a scenario like this.

She blinked away a bleariness that threatened to overtake her vision. Maybe she was getting tired? Time didn't seem to pass in here. All the same, everything was going white around her. Bunnie shut her eyes against it, hoping against hope it was a good sign...

*****

Bunnie shook her head rapidly, the last of the haze leaving her mind. She looked down at her left hand and knees with a start. For a moment, she was convinced they were flesh and blood again. Instead they were the same sleek cybernetics she'd been fitted with a while ago. She fought back a pang of remorse – she'd resigned herself to her bionic limbs a long time ago. It was who she was now, and that wasn't going to change. Still, for just a moment, it had almost seemed as though...

She glanced around the cockpit of the Freedom Fighter Special, which for an instant filled her with a sense of dread – as if she were trapped. But no, she was the co-pilot. She could see the sky all around her and the Death Egg looming off to the side. And the Death Egg that was being oddly complacent. Speaking of complacent, they were flying straight ahead as if they were in no danger at all.

She heard Amy Rose call from the back: "Everything all right up there?"

"Ah think so," Bunnie called back, then reached for Antoine. She shook his shoulder. "Sugar-Twan, you still with us?"

"...see-saw..." he murmured, then shook his head violently. "Mon dieu, did I take a nap in ze middle of piloting ze plane?!"

"Ah think something got to all of us," she said. "But whatever it was, it passed."

"Oui," Antoine agreed, banking the Freedom Fighter Special away from the Death Egg. "Whatever eet was, eet affected ze Death Egg, too. I'll bring us around for another attack run."

Just as they pulled away, laser-fire erupted from the Death Egg as it had before – and then subsided just as quickly.

"Tornado to Special," Tails called from the radio. "It's gone quiet. Any word from Sonic or Sally?"

"Not a one, sugah," Bunnie replied. "Ah wonder why they..."

Suddenly, an explosion rocked the inside of the Death Egg. Fire and smoke poured from its seams. Bunnie punched the air and whooped for joy.

"Go get 'em, ya'll!" she cheered. Whatever Sonic and Sally had done inside the Death Egg had damaged it badly. At this rate, Bunnie thought, she might not get the chance to join in!

SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

- ROTOR WALRUS -

The stench of oil and fumes was almost overpowering. Boomer peered out of the reinforced window of the command office and into the sky. Despite the smog and haze hovering over the Oil Ocean Zone, there was still a distinctive flash of light.

Antoine groaned behind him. "All ze fumes of this oily ocean place is making me the see-saw."

Boomer took a moment to decipher that. "You mean 'sea-sick,' right?"

"Whatever, I am... ugh..."

Boomer shook his head and turned his gaze back to the bright point in the sky. He didn't know why, but he felt like it had some connection to Sonic. Any further speculation was chased out of his mind as he realizes the flash of white was overtaking the sky - and the corners of his vision.

Boomer charged outside to the observation deck where Sally stood with a small pecky in her arms. She seemed all too calm about the world turning to nothing around her.

"Sally!" he called. "Everything's vanishing! What do we do?!"

"It's okay, Rotor," Sally answered. "Sonic has everything under control."

Boomer's jaw dropped. "Sonic? 'Rotor?!'" Had she lost it? Sally turned to him with a reassuring smile and petted the tiny penguin-like bird, which chirped happily.

"Trust me," she said. "Everything will be okay."

Boomer looked up at the encroaching white void that was now consuming the world around him. He set his jaw and tightened his fists. She hadn't led him astray thus far, so he fought back his fear and trusted in her...

*****

Rotor blinked rapidly and adjusted his glasses. His vision had gone fuzzy for a moment, and his mind hazy. He was in his house, alone, half changed out of his councilor's uniform. Why was that again? Rotor glanced out the window and to the edge of the town. Hanging in the air, glaring down at the city, was a new Death Egg.

Everything came back in a rush – Geoffrey's betrayal, Ixis Naugus' claim to the throne, and the near-implosion of the Council of Acorn. Sonic had stormed the castle wielding the new Sword of Acorns and fought Naugus to a stand-still, only for Dr. Eggman to distract them all with his latest flying fortress.

The Royal Guard had begun ushering them to the safety of a bunker in the Royal Military Headquarters, bur Rotor had ducked out to his home to change into his Nanite Suit. The Freedom Fighters had already gone out to meet the Death Egg, and he felt the need to join them.

But with his sash in his hands, his duties as a councilor came back to him. The perpetual twinge in his back reminded him of why he retired from active duty in the first place.

"I put on the suit to save my family," he reasoned with himself. "This threat is easily just as important. But when do the threats stop being 'enough' to warrant the suit? I got away with it once, but twice..." He looked out the window again to see the Tornado and Freedom Fighter Special zipping around the Death Egg. Rotor smiled ruefully and buttoned up his uniform again. He knew his friends. They would have everything under control. They needed him to do his job and to let them do theirs.

What was the worst that could happen?

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